

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail processing method comprising the

steps of:

identifying a type of each data included in a received e-mail, the received e-mail including comprising a plurality of different types of data; and

determining whether each data included in the received e-mail ~~is to be utilized~~ can be processed, in accordance with the identified type of each data,

wherein, when said determining step determines that the received e-mail can be processed, the data is stored, and

wherein, when said determining step determines that the received e-mail cannot be processed, the data is deleted.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, further

comprising the steps of:

registering ~~an arbitrary type~~ types of data that can be processed, in advance; and

determining that ~~a the data is to be utilized~~ can be processed, when the identified type of data coincides with the registered type of data.

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Claims 3-7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a presence of a the data that ~~has been determined not to be utilized~~ cannot be processed is notified ~~for external use to a user.~~

Claim 9. (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has been determined that a the data ~~is not to be utilized~~ cannot be processed, a subsequent process is selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes.

Claim 11. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the type of data comprises a text.

Claim 12. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the type of data comprises an image.

Claim 13. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein identification of the type of data is performed by analyzing the received e-mail.

Claim 14. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a character string

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is retrieved from the received e-mail, and the type of data is identified according to a reference character string specified based on a position in the received e-mail where the retrieved character string is present.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) An e-mail processing apparatus comprising:
type identification means for identifying a type of each data included in a received e-mail, the received e-mail ~~including~~ comprising a plurality of different types of data; and
determination means for determining whether each data included in the received e-mail ~~is to be utilized~~ can be processed, in accordance with the identified type of each data,
wherein, when said determination means determines that the received e-mail can be processed, the data is stored, and
wherein, when said determination means determines that the received e-mail cannot be processed, the data is deleted.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising storage means for storing ~~an arbitrary type~~ types of data that can be processed, wherein said determination means determines that ~~a the data is to be utilized~~ can be processed, when the identified type of data coincides with the stored type of data.

Claims 17-21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, further

Sub C 7 comprising notification means for notifying, ~~for external use; a user of a presence of a the data~~
that ~~has been determined by said determination means not to be utilized~~ cannot be processed.

Claim 23. (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising selection means for causing a subsequent process to be selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes, when said determination means determines that a data is ~~not to be utilized~~ cannot be processed.

Claim 25. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the type of data comprises a text.

Claim 26. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the type of data comprises an image.

Claim 27. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said type identification means identifies the type of data by analyzing the received e-mail.

Claim 28. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said type identification means retrieves a character string from the received e-mail, and identifies the type of data according to a reference character string specified based on a position in the received

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e-mail where the retrieved character string is present.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing control software for implementing an e-mail process, the control software comprising:

a control program for identifying a type of each data included in a received e-mail, the received e-mail ~~including~~ comprising a plurality of different types of data; and

a control program for determining whether ~~not each data included in~~ the received e-mail ~~is to be utilized~~ can be processed, in accordance with the identified type of each data,

wherein, when said determining control program determines that the received e-mail can be processed, the data is stored, and

wherein, when said determining control program determines that the received e-mail cannot be processed, the data is deleted.

Claim 30. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein the control software further comprises:

a control program for reading ~~a type~~ types of data that can be processed, which has have been registered in advance in a memory; and

a control program for determining that ~~a the data is to be utilized~~ can be processed, when the identified type of data coincides with the read type of data.

Claims 31-35. (Cancelled)

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Claim 36. (Currently Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29,

wherein the control software further comprises a control program for notifying, ~~for external use,~~
a user of a presence of a the data that has been determined not to be utilized cannot be processed.

Claim 37. (Cancelled)

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Claim 38. (Currently Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29,

wherein the control software further comprises a control program for causing a subsequent
process to be selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes, when it has been
determined that ~~a the data is not to be utilized~~ cannot be processed.

Claim 39. (Previously Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29,

wherein the control software further comprises a control program for identifying the type of data
by analyzing the received e-mail.

Claim 40. (Previously Amended) A control program according to Claim 29,

wherein the control software further comprises a control program for retrieving a character string
from the received e-mail, and identifying the type of data according to a character string specified
based on a position in the received e-mail where the retrieved character string is present.